

The scientific community speaks out against the approval of the European regulation to accelerate the deployment of renewables.

More than 450 scientists have signed an open letter in defence of existing biodiversity protection measures and in rejection of the proposal to amend the European regulation (to be voted on 13 December) to reduce such measures.

The scientific initiative has the support of more than 200 citizens' groups.

On 13 December, the EU Council will meet to decide whether to approve the proposed [regulation on accelerating the deployment of renewables](#) that reduces environmental controls on renewable energy plans and projects.

The current regulation prohibits the deterioration of species, habitats and sites in the Natura 2000 network, as well as the status of surface and groundwater. The Commission's proposal reduces this requirement by establishing that plans and projects for the production of energy from renewable sources will be generally presumed to be "of overriding public interest and to contribute to public health and safety", thus exempting developers from having to prove such interest and contribution on a case-by-case basis.

This is a regulation which, moreover, [does not comply with European Union law](#) and violates the democratic legitimacy of the European Parliament.

In barely a week, the scientific community has spoken out unequivocally against this proposal, with more than 450 scientists signing the open letter [Biodiversity without excuses](#), in which they call on the European Institutions and EU energy ministers not to reduce existing controls to protect biodiversity, not even to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy. The letter is backed by the public with the support of more than 200 groups.

The rejection of the approval of the regulation to accelerate the deployment of renewables has been widespread, international (with representation from 16 countries), interdisciplinary and intergenerational, as along with scientists with extensive experience and recognition, there are researchers in their early stages of training.

"Those of us who work to increase scientific knowledge and apply it to public policy want to draw attention to the intergenerational responsibility we have as a society and the imperative need not to take any steps backwards in the protection of biodiversity, not even for the deployment of renewable energies. We must not protect one asset by damaging another," the professionals state in their letter.

Society's response is clear: it rejects outright the European regulation to accelerate the deployment of renewables. The European Union should not ignore this block petition, which

argues that the energy transition to renewable sources can be carried out without endangering biodiversity.

Press release. 11 December 2022

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